

Congressional Record

United States of America

Proceedings and debates of the 117^{th} congress, first session

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021

No. 85

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God, keep us far from the paths of evil. Remind us that You have no desire to rain on our parade. Instead, You want for us all to experience a rich and satisfying life. Give our lawmakers wisdom to avoid the traps that cause them to deviate from Your plan for their lives.

Lord, keep them from setting an ambush for themselves. May they instead listen to Your counsel and walk securely, protected by Your loving and prevailing providence. Provide them with a passion to choose reverence for You and obedience to Your commands so that You can use them as peacemakers for our Nation and world.

We pray in Your sovereign Name.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God. indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.
Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I

suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

PRESIDING OFFICER DUCKWORTH). Without objection, it is

so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Senate will consider three important measures this week. Senators will vote on whether to repeal a Trump-era rule that made it harder for victims of discrimination in the workplace to pursue justice. It is another example of the sheer malice, the nastiness of the Trump administration. It actively sought to make it harder—harder—for workers to win employment discrimination claims. The Senate should reverse the Trump-era rule this week.

Second, the Senate will also vote on whether to discharge the nomination of Ms. Kristen Clarke from the Judiciary Committee. Ms. Clarke would be the first Black woman ever to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. She is immensely qualified, and I look forward to putting her nomination on the floor after the Senate takes action this

But first, throughout the week—this is the third thing, very important as well—the Senate will debate a very important piece of legislation. This evening, the Senate will vote on whether to take up the Endless Frontier Act on the Senate floor, a once-in-a-generation investment in American science and American technology.

Last week, the Senate Commerce Committee voted on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis, 24 to 4, to advance the bill. The Endless Frontier Act will form the core of what will be a comprehensive bill to boost America's ability to compete, innovate, and win the technologies of the 21st cen-

Over the course of the next week or two, the Senate will debate and amend the legislation. I look forward to hav-

another open and bipartisan amendment process, just as we did on the Asian hate crimes bill and the bipartisan water infrastructure bill. There is no reason—no reason—the Senate can't finish our work on this important legislation by the end of the month.

Members on both sides of the aisle know that decades of Federal underinvestment in science and technology have imperiled America's global economic leadership. When we invest in science, it inevitably produces millions of good-paying jobs.

So this comprehensive bill will boost funding for basic scientific research, tech development, and manufacturing. It will strengthen our alliances and partnerships abroad. It will fortify weak spots in our economy, like semiconductors, and will ensure that we hold the Chinese Communist Party accountable for its predatory economic practices. It is a forward-looking, comprehensive plan to preserve America's competitive edge.

The benefits will be manifold. When we invest in scientific research, the effect is diffusive. It helps our universities, our laboratories, and our businesses. And, again, it creates new, good-paying jobs-millions of themmillions of them. So if you are looking for the future and our people want to have a brighter future and want to be assured that their children will have better paying jobs than they have, this is an answer—one of the most important answers we can come up with.

An American workforce will help bring American inventions to the global market, and the way we have been No. 1 in the economy for the last century will continue on into this one. So I am excited about this legislation.

Holding the Chinese Communist Party accountable for its years of rapacious economic policies and theft of American ingenuity will help create a level playing field that American workers have lacked for decades.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

